

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed August 26, 2004, the Examiner has noted that claims 1-7, 9-12 and 14 are pending. Claims 3-6 have been objected to, and claims 1, 2, 7, 9-12 and 14 have been rejected. Claims 2-4 and 14 have been canceled. Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 10, 11, and 12 have been amended. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to include the features previously recited by claims 2 and 3 (3 has been indicated as being allowable by the Examiner) and to delete the feature previously incorporated from claim 8. Claims 5-7 have been amended to depend from claim 1. Claims 9-10 have been amended to depend from new claim 18, which recites subject matter from original claim 8 that was previously cancelled. Apparatus claim 11 and medium claim 12 have been amended to express newly amended method claim 1 in apparatus and medium claim format, respectively.

New method claim 15 has been added and includes the features previously recited by the language of claims 2 and 4 (4 has been indicated as being allowable by the Examiner), without the language of originally filed claim 8. New apparatus claim 16 has been added and expresses new method claim 15 in apparatus claim format. New medium claim 17 has been added and expresses new method claim 15 in medium claim format. New method claim 19 recites the same subject matter as claim 18 but depends from new claim 15. Claims 20, 21, and 22 recite language identical to claims 5, 6 and 7, respectively, and depend from new claim 15. As all amended and new claims recite subject matter indicated as being allowable by the Examiner, all of the pending claims are patentable over the reference and should be allowed. The amended claims and the new claims recite no new matter.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 3-6 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner has indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have incorporated the features of claim 3 into claim 1 and have incorporated the features of claim 4 into claim 15.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 9-12 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated

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by U.S. Pat. No. 6,301,471 B1, issued to Dahm *et al.*

In light of the foregoing, the rejection with respect to all claims is moot. It is respectfully submitted that no new issues have been raised in the current amendment. The Amendment places all claims in condition for allowance, as all claims now incorporate the features of subject matter indicated as being allowable by the Examiner. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.


If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the USPTO is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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